

CHAPTER VI.

1806.

Alarm of the city of Hamburg— The French at Bergdorff —Favorable orders issued by Bernadotte — Extortions in Prussia—False indorsements—Exactions of the Dutch — Napoleon's concern for his wounded troops —Duroc's mission to the King of Prussia — Rejection of the Emperor's demands —My negotiations at Hamburg — Displeasure of the King of Sweden — M. Netzel and M. Wetterstedt.

AT this critical moment Hamburg was menaced on all sides; the French even occupied a portion of its territory. The French troops, fortunately for the country, were attached to the corps commanded by the Prince de Ponte-Corvo.¹ This military occupation alarmed the town of Hamburg, to which, indeed, it proved very injurious. I wrote to Marshal Bernadotte on the subject. The grounds on which the Senate appealed for the evacuation of their territory were such that Bernadotte could not but acknowledge their justice. The prolonged stay of the French troops in the bailiwick of Bergdorff, which had "all the appearance of an occupation, might have led to the confiscation of all Hamburg property in England, to the laying an embargo on the vessels of the Republic, and consequently to the ruin of a great part of the trade of France and Holland, which was carried on under the flag of Hamburg. There was no longer any motive for occupying the bailiwick of Bergdorff when there were no Prussians in that quarter. It would have been an absurd misfortune that eighty men stationed in that bailiwick should, for the sake of a few louis and a few ells of English cloth, have occasioned the confiscation of Hamburg, .French, and Dutch property to the amount of 80,000,000 francs.

Marshal Bernadotte replied to me on the 16th of November, and said, ^e *I* hasten to inform you that I have given orders f01

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Bernadott
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